

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/023,916
Filed: December 17, 2001
Amendment Dated: May 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action Dated: December 4, 2002

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

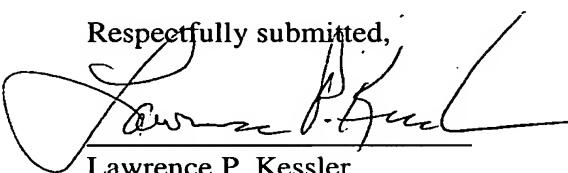
In the Office Action dated December 4, 2002, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sasada et al. in view of Katagiri et al. The Sasada et al. and Katagiri et al. patents are directed to respective toners having two or more binder resins. The Sasada et al. resins must be curable, and fixing is accomplished by heat softening in combination with curing, i.e., crosslinking a relatively low molecular weight resin. Since the Examiner indicates that the Sasada et al. reference shows that the elasticity of the toner is not especially restricted if the fixing is effected non-contact, this reference is considered to actually teach away from Applicants' claimed invention. The resin curing is essential to the invention of this reference. The Katagiri et al. reference requires that the binder resin be a blend of resins of particular characteristics, formed by the reaction of two prepolymers, or a binder resin combined with a surface tension reducing agent. None of the foregoing applies to Applicants' invention as claimed. That is, neither reference, individually or in any proper combination, suggests providing a toner which has a sharp transition from solid to liquid state, to facilitate providing a toner which can be advantageously flash fused by pulsed radiation, as specifically recited as Applicants' invention in the rejected claims. Therefore, even if the references are combinable in the manner proposed by the Examiner to suggest a toner having certain physical properties to be useful in flash fusing, such combination would provide no reasonable basis for teaching a toner which has a sharp transition from solid to liquid state, to facilitate fixing by pulsed radiation, to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-17 patentably distinguish over the references as presented by the Examiner, and such claims should now be allowed.

Applicants are not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

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As now presented, this application is believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested. If, upon considering the content of this paper, the Examiner concludes that there are open issues which remain, please contact the undersigned so that an interview may be arranged to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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